

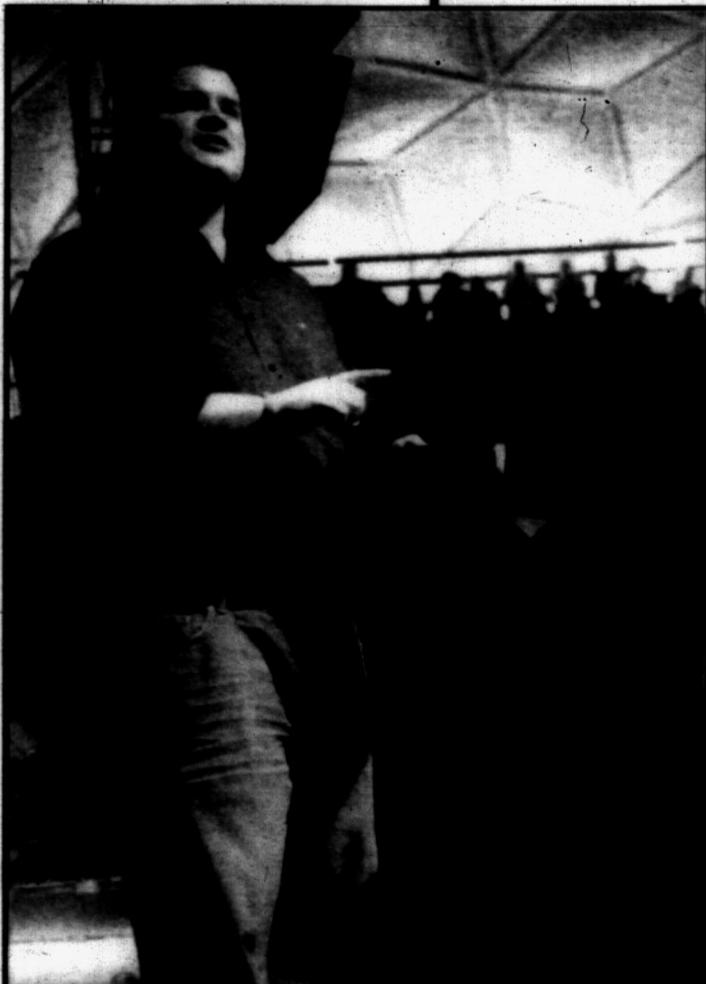
# Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

SINCE 1877  
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 VOL. 130  
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MISSISSIPPI  
 BAPTISTS

**IN THE WORD** — Landon Dowden of Baton Rouge delivers the message on December 29 to participants in the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Challenge in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. Dowden is a youth speaker and pastor of CrossPoint Church in Baton Rouge. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



## Youth pack MC coliseum for YEC 2005

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
*Editor*

More than 2,600 young people and their sponsors jammed A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton for the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference (YEC) Challenge, according to a member of the event's planning committee.

The venerable annual gathering, long a favorite of youth and youth ministers, has grown into one of the largest gatherings of Mississippi Baptists anywhere in the state. The Mississippi Baptist Youth Night held each summer in the 10,000-seat Mississippi Coliseum in downtown Jackson is the largest Mississippi Baptist gathering.

"YEC Challenge was incredible this year. God moved in great ways as we focused on the theme of prayer from James 5:16," said planning committee member Harvey Ellis, youth ministry specialist in the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

"The YEC Challenge is about students and their leaders being challenged to share Christ with others, and all who were there this year were challenged personally to do just that," he said.

Ellis estimated there were about 50 decisions for Christ during the 2005 YEC Challenge, with about half being professions of faith.

"Our team was so encouraged by what we saw and heard from students and their leaders. We were a little skeptical at first because only 150 people had registered by December 1, and then many more came in for registration as the event drew near. I would like to encourage churches to try to register a little earlier next year, if possible."

Landon Dowden, pastor of CrossPoint Church in Baton Rouge, La., was the keynote speaker. "All his messages were well-received by the



**PRAISE AND WORSHIP** — Jason Elam (right) of Hattiesburg leads the 2005 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Challenge on December 29 in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on the campus of Mississippi College in Clinton. The annual event drew more than 2,600 people. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

youth in the audience; I believe his first message, though, was outstanding and the best of all," Ellis said.

Jason Elam, worship leader for the college Bible study at his home church, Temple Church in Hattiesburg, led the worship time at the conference and was accompanied by his band, Eighty-Six Eleven. "Jason and his band have a tremendous talent for reaching into the hearts of young people through their praise and worship," Ellis said.

Information on Elam's new CD, Infinite God, can be found at <http://www.grassrootsmusic.com/artist/elamjason>.

Among the leaders at the conference's break out sessions were Dowden and:

— Casey Nelson, recreation minister at First Church, Olive Branch.

— Gary Permenter, president of Gary Permenter Ministries in Columbus.

— John Kittrell, pastor of Shuqualak Church, Shuqualak. Kittrell also served on the event planning committee.

Ellis said an attendee sent him an e-mail several days later. "He was so moved by what he heard at the conference that he said he intended to share the Gospel with the people who were coming to his birthday party. That's the kind of feedback we like to hear," he said.

Any comments or suggestions for future Youth Evangelism Conference Challenges are welcomed by the planning committee, Ellis said. "I can be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. My telephone number is (601) 292-3286, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 286. My e-mail is [hgelis@mcb.org](mailto:hgelis@mcb.org)," he said.

Planning committee members for 2005, in addition to Ellis and Kittrell, were:

— Jon Cooper, youth minister at First Church, Amory.

— Heather Lyons, a member of Providence Church, Hattiesburg.

— Mark Williams, youth minister at Agricola Church, Lucedale.

— Shannon Slover, youth minister at First Church, Laurel, who also served as event coordinator.

— Rene Edwards, ministry assistant in the MBCB Discipleship and Family Ministry Department.

The 2006 Mississippi Baptist Youth Evangelism Conference Challenge is scheduled for December 28-29 at Mississippi College in Clinton. The conference is funded each year by the Mississippi Baptist Cooperative Program and a participant fee.



## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



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# New year, same story

The 2006 entertainment awards season in America is upon us, so let the glorification of sin begin anew. First up was the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Golden Globe Awards extravaganza, described far and wide as a bellwether for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' Academy Awards on March 5. One would expect that such high-visibility awards would closely track the most popular and top-grossing movies of the year, the movies that were big hits with American movie goers. One would be wrong.

Did the Golden Globe voters — approximately 80 people employed by foreign news media outlets — pick the outstanding *Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* as best picture? How about the latest, high-tech remake of *King Kong*, one of America's favorite all-time movie themes?

No, our self-absorbed friends from overseas picked *Brokeback Mountain*, a sordid tale of homosexual cowboy love set in the early 1960s, as Best Motion Picture of 2005. As a matter of fact, Golden Globe voters showered *Brokeback Mountain* with four of their top awards including Best Director-

Motion Picture (Ang Lee), Best Screenplay-Motion Picture (Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana), and Best Original Song-Motion Picture (A Love That Will Never Grow Old by Gustavo Santaolalla and Bernie Taupin).

There was not a single award for movies like *Chronicles of Narnia* and *King Kong*, but there was a best actor award for Philip Seymour Hoffman for his role as flamboyant homosexual Truman Capote in *Capote*, and a best actress award for Felicity Huffman for her role as a transsexual single parent in *Transamerica*.

So much for the deep insight of foreign media types. If history can be believed, the Academy Awards voters — all of whom are members of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences — will probably follow suit and elevate the strangest of human perversities to a place of honor and respect.

What's going on here? A quick check of the "box office," Hollywood vernacular for the amount of money a movie takes in, reveals much. Box office is an important and appropriate gauge of just how out of touch our news media and entertainment industries are with basic Americans and our values.

How well has *Brokeback Mountain* done at the box office? According to [www.boxofficemojo.com](http://www.boxofficemojo.com), *Brokeback Mountain* has taken in \$41,730,237 in 45 days since it was released. *Transamerica*,

that other Golden Globe darling, has taken in all of \$876,859 in 52 days of release.

How have these two big hits fared when compared to other movies released in the same time frame? Brace yourself.

*The Chronicles of Narnia* has grossed \$271,852,138 in 45 days of release. You read right: nearly \$272 million dollars, or nearly seven times *Brokeback Mountain*'s numbers. In only 40 days of release, *King Kong* has earned \$209,875,885, or 239 times more than *Transamerica*, which has been in release for a longer period of time.

They just don't get it in Hollywood. We, the occupants of what the awards voters sneeringly refer to as "flyover country" — the area between New York and Los Angeles — don't want tales of sin and perversion constantly shoved down our throats and touted as standards of behavior. We want movies to be uplifting, enlightening, and entertaining, and we obviously vote with our pocketbooks.

Yet the elitist entertainment establishment in this country persists in insulting us with such sad fare as *Brokeback Mountain* and *Transamerica*. Needless to day, most businesses couldn't survive if they tried to sell such unwanted products to a discerning public.

Given the embarrassing box office/rave reviews for *Brokeback Mountain* and *Transamerica* — and so many others just like them over the years — there must be something else going on here. Could it be an agenda for America?

## GUEST OPINION:

### *Some pointers on the 'emerging church'*

By Ed Stetzer  
North American Mission Board

It's been interesting to watch the emerging church conversation over the last few months. Important issues are being discussed. Unfortunately, like many conversations, good things are lumped together with bad and important conversations are lost in more heat than light.

My own observation as one who speaks at some events classified as "emerging" is that there are three broad categories of what is often called "the emerging church." Oddly enough, I think I can fairly say that most in the emerging conversation would agree with my assessments about the "types" of emerging leaders and churches — and just differ with my conclusions.

In this too brief article, perhaps I can make a few suggestions on how conservative evangelicals should view these types of emerging churches. I believe that some are taking the same Gospel in the historic form of church but seeking to make it understandable to emerging culture; some are taking the same Gospel but questioning and reconstructing much of the form of church; and some are questioning and revising the Gospel and the church.

#### Relevants

There are a good number of young (and not so young) leaders who some classify as "emerging" that really are just trying to make their worship, music, and outreach

more contextual to emerging culture. Ironically, while some may consider them liberal, they are often deeply committed to biblical preaching, male pastoral leadership, and other values common in conservative evangelical churches.

They are simply trying to explain the message of Christ in a way their generation can understand. They are intentionally reaching into their communities (which are different than where most Southern Baptists live) and proclaiming a faithful biblically-centered Gospel there. I know some of their churches — they are doctrinally sound, growing, and impacting lostness.

#### Reconstructionists

The reconstructionists think that the current form of church is frequently irrelevant and the structure is unhelpful. Yet, they typically hold to a more orthodox view of the Gospel and Scripture. Therefore, we see an increase in models of

church that reject certain organizational models, embracing what are often called "incarnational" or "house" models. Don't want a building, a budget, and a program? OK. Don't want the Bible, scriptural leadership, covenant community? Not OK.

#### Revisionists

Revisionists are questioning (and in some cases denying) issues like the nature of the substitutionary atonement, the reality of hell, the complementarian nature of gender, and the nature of the Gospel itself. This is not new — some mainline theologians quietly abandoned these doctrines a generation ago. The revisionist emerging church leaders should be treated, appreciated and read as we read mainline theologians — they often have good descriptions, but their prescriptions fail to take into account the full teaching of the Word of God.

Where do we go from here?

Much of SBC life is absent from the emerging church conversation. To be in this conversation, we need to think biblically and critically. We should journey and partner with the Relevants, seeking to make the Gospel understandable in emerging culture. We can and should enter into dialogue with Reconstructionists — learning, discussing, and applying together what Scripture teaches about church.

We can and must speak prophetically to Revisionists that, yes, we know the current system is not impacting the culture as it should — but the change we need is more Bible, more maturity, more discernment, and more missional engagement, not an abandonment of the teachings of Scripture about church, theology, and practice.

This is an important moment in the emerging church. Many "emerging" evangelicals are distancing themselves from the revisionist leaders. Let's affirm the good, look to the Scriptures for answers to the hard questions, and, yes, let's graciously disagree when others hold views contrary to our best scriptural understanding of God, Bible, and church.

**Stetzer serves as research team director and missiologist at the North American Mission Board. His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.**



## Abortions top gruesome statistic in 2005

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — In what can only be described as tragic, the United States likely experienced its 47 millionth legal abortion at some point in 2005, more than three decades after the Supreme Court issued its infamous 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing the killing of the unborn.

The statistic is based on data since 1973 gathered by the pro-choice Guttmacher Institute and on estimates by the National Right to Life Committee. In the first full year of abortion legalization nationwide (1974), Guttmacher counted 898,600 abortions. That number reached a peak of 1,608,600 in 1990, before falling to 1,293,000 in 2002.

Since 1975, the United States has witnessed more than one million abortions each year. Unless the nation's laws are changed, the number of abortions post-Roe will pass 50 million in 2008.

"It's an unspeakable tragedy," Randall K. O'Bannon, director of education and research at National

Right to Life, told Baptist Press. "That [47 million] is higher than the population of some countries. That would be wiping out a number of whole states. The world was appropriately horrified and shocked when we lost about a couple thousand people on Sept. 11... What we're talking about here is that sort of loss multiplied dramatically."

Guttmacher compiles data on abortions by contacting abortion clinics, and its latest data is from 2002 (1,293,000). The 47 million figure is based on Guttmacher data from 1973 through 2002, and on the 2002 count remaining relatively steady through 2005. By including a three percent underreport that Guttmacher estimates it misses, the figure of 47 million is derived.

"Our society needs to put in context the enormous amount of loss that we've suffered — the enormous amount of intelligence, the enormous amount of creativity, the enormous amount of productivity," O'Bannon said, referring to the millions of lives lost since Roe.

In light of the fact that the United States will pass the 50 million mark in abortions in coming years, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) and the Mississippi Baptist Christian Action Commission (CAC) are planning a special observance in 2006 to raise awareness.

CAC consultant Lee Yancey said 50 million pennies will be collected by Mississippi Baptists and placed in a large container on public display on the grounds of the Baptist Building in downtown Jackson. Each penny will signify a life lost to abortion.

"How can we bring attention to the fact that abortion is, in fact, killing babies? How can we do something that will make a difference for generations to come? The Christian Action Commission and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board are proposing that each church, Sunday School class, youth group, or missions organization save their pennies. They are in abundance and multiply like coat hangers. Our goal is to collect fifty million pennies to represent the fifty million babies aborted since 1973," Yancey said in a January 19 Practical Principles article in The Baptist Record.

"Fifty million pennies is five hundred thousand dollars. We are still analyzing the logistics and it is possible that on the northwest corner of the Baptist Building property, engineers

will be designing a container to hold the estimated 156 tons of pennies. Yes, it will weigh 312,000 pounds when it is full. The money will be placed in an account with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation and the interest each year will be used for Mississippi pro-life causes. Some of the money might go to purchase sonogram machines for crisis pregnancy centers



## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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while other monies might be used for abstinence education to help with the problems of infant mortality, teen pregnancy, and abortion," Yancey wrote.

"Some might say that a penny is insignificant, but it has value. Fifty million pennies are very valuable, just as every baby with a heartbeat who never had a chance to take her first breath is valuable. The time is overdue for this heinous procedure to be banned. We will announce in the near future a kickoff for this incredible project. In the meantime, save your pennies and we will ask you to bring them to the Baptist Building at a later date. Let's work together to save the babies," Yancey wrote.

### Looking back

10 years ago

First Church, Pontotoc, prepares to celebrate its 150th anniversary, with the theme Remembrance and Renewal — A Reason to Celebrate.

20 years ago

New Orleans Seminary announces plans to renovate the 119,000 square foot, vacant Maison Blanche department store next door to the seminary, converting the 6.5-acre property into a student center and office complex.

30 years ago

Eleven early Christian burial urns, which archeologists say may provide the oldest record of Christianity, have been discovered in a cave on the Jerusalem-Bethlehem road. Inscriptions on the urns contain an historical confirmation of the trial and crucifixion of Jesus.

## Judge OKs gay marriage

BALTIMORE (BP) — A Maryland judge on Jan. 20 struck down that state's 33-year-old marriage law and ruled that gay marriage must be legalized. The ruling is being appealed. The decision by Judge M. Brooke Murdock is only the latest victory on the state level for homosexual activists, joining recent wins in Massachusetts, California, New York, and Washington state. Massachusetts' highest court in 2003 ordered the state to legalize gay marriage. Judges in California, New York, and Washington also have issued pro-gay marriage rulings, although all of them have been appealed. In her 20-page ruling, Murdock said that a 1973 law defining marriage as being between one man and one woman violates the Maryland constitution's Equal Rights Amendment. The marriage law was passed in the early 1970s shortly after a question arose concerning the legality of gay marriage in the state. "Having concluded that preventing same-sex marriage has no rational relationship to any other legitimate state interest, this court concludes that tradition and social values alone cannot support adequately a discriminatory classification," Murdock wrote. Although 19 states have passed marriage amendments, homosexual activists have filed gay marriage suits in liberal-leaning states where courts are likely to be friendly and marriage amendments are less likely to be successful. Thus far, the Maryland legislature has been cool to the idea of an amendment. The American Civil Liberties Union filed the lawsuit on behalf of nine homosexual couples and one homosexual individual. Dan Furmansky, executive director of the homosexual group Equality Maryland, called the ruling an "historic moment" for the state. Murdock asserted that the state's marriage law served no "compelling government interests."



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(I repent.)**

**3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you.  
(I believe in Jesus.)**

**4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him.  
(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)**

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.*

#### HURRICANE HUMMINGBIRDS

I keep feeders out for hummingbirds. I enjoy watching them dive, dart, and come in to feed and fuss with each other and then fly away. When Katrina came through it was fascinating to keep an eye on the feeder that was beside the window because the hummingbirds just kept on feeding. During the height of the storm when we were supposed to be receiving hurricane force winds, those little frail creatures of God kept flying up there and eating, but there was one significant difference: they were not fighting each other. The feeder that I have on my window has two little feeding spouts for them. Often two of them would be sitting there filling up with as much and as best they could in the storm. As a rule my hummingbirds do not come to the feeder two at a time. In fact, normally if one is there feeding another one will come and run him off. They squawk, fuss, fight, and fly around to see who can come in there and eat. The other one seems to delight in coming in there and running him away but not during the storm. In the storm there they were taking care of their own needs and allowing others to be a part of taking care of their needs. It was almost as though they had called a truce because the storm was a lot bigger than they were.

As we sat there hunkered down with no power, I kept watching as the storm continued to intensify and the humming-



# Directions

**Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board**

birds continued to feed in the hurricane as darkness moved upon us. Surely they must have wondered how long it would last. Will we ever get out of here? What does the future hold? There they were taking care of the essentials and treating each other kindly. The next morning as day began to break and the storm had moved through I watched as they came to feed and everything was back to normal. They were fussing and fighting again. I couldn't believe it! Those sweet, caring, agreeable little birds of 12 hours ago were now squawking and bumping into each other and rooting each other off the little stand so that they could get their food or get more food. I thought to myself how amazingly those hummingbirds are like some of us Baptists. It seemed like a congregation of some Baptists had shrunk down and were flying around outside my window.

When we recognize the awesomeness and urgency of the need and stay focused on what needs to be done we, like the hummingbirds, do pretty good. Just watch us! Sometimes you

will see a church that seems to be moving under the amazing control of the Spirit of God focused on reaching a world for Christ and everything moves in harmony. They seem to care about each other and the little things that often might irritate one another are set aside. The issue is to do what is needed to reach people for Christ. Someone else may appear to drop the ball or not be carrying his or her part of the load, but that is okay. Maybe there is a reason why we need to help one another. We all come to the feeder, and we all find a way to meet the need. In the context of the urgency of a world blowing, blustering, and on the edge of crisis we stick together and make a difference. Then as things seem to calm down we lose the intensity and priority of what we need to be doing, and we turn our focus on other things. It is at that time that little things become major. The temperature really gets our attention. We begin to question the motives of those around us. We begin to push away from some people. We began to squawk, fly

in circles, and wonder why other people are getting more than we are. We look like hummingbirds after the hurricane.

It may be that it is that kind of spirit from which the Apostle Paul was trying to urge the disciples to move away and zero in on those things that needed their full attention and total resources when he said, "Redeem the times for the days are evil." If only God could ever bring us to understand that we live in a world tainted by sin, warped by evil and immorality, and that we are the people who can make a wrong world into right! Jesus has come, saved us, and commissioned us to get on with the great work of whatever it takes to reach a world for Him.

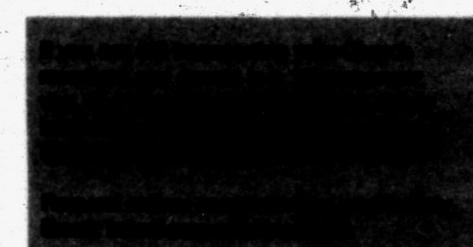
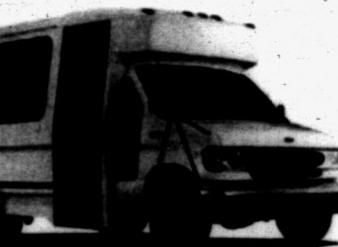
We live in that kind of storm. We need that kind of pointed purpose. It will make a difference to others, and it will make a difference for us. What are you doing personally to try to reach people for Jesus where you are? When your church gathers together, has it become an obsessive kind of game plan from Jesus in order to reach a world for Him? When we focus we can do fantastic things and the Lord can work in us and through us in fabulous ways. The winds are blowing, the rains are coming, the surrounds us, and we can lose sight of what Jesus has called us to do and to be.

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# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

January 26, 2006

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## Pray this day for...

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"Patient, persevering, believing prayer, offered up to God, in the Name of the Lord Jesus, has always, sooner or later, brought the blessing. I do not despair, by God's grace of obtaining any blessing, provided I can be sure it would be for any real good, and for the glory of God."

George Muller, WITH CHRIST IN THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER by Andrew Murray

Gary D. Gilmore, Mount Vernon, Mo., is the state chaplain for the Missouri Army National Guard, directing a chaplaincy team that serves some 1,000 soldiers and their families. Pray for marriage enrichment retreats being offered and for more pastors to respond to God's call to chaplain ministry.

Pray for any Acehnese people who have begun to follow Christ this past year after the tsunami. Pray that God would root them firmly in their new faith, and that they would stand strong against persecution. Pray for them to grow in the Word, and that their greatest desire would be to glorify God.

L is a creative and intelligent woman who gave her life to Christ as a young girl, rejecting the teachings of the traditional religion of her family. Pray that God will provide evangelistic and disciplemaking opportunities in her neighborhood or Villa Olga in Santiago, Dominican Republic. Thank God for L and her desire to help in beginning a new church.

Haiti has a violent past that has followed it throughout its history and is present even today. Many merchants in the Central Plateau have not traveled to the capital for a long time now, due to fear of the violence in Port-au-Prince. Pray that Haitians will know that it is God who is the God of peace and love. Pray that they would desire a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Give thanks for the young Somalis of the Horn of Africa who have become believers. Pray for them because all of them will be persecuted; some of them will be killed. Pray for the emergence of Spirit-drenched and anointed leaders. Pray for a holy obsession to see their neighbors, relatives, and their entire people come to know Jesus.

For: (1) VBS JumpStart, Liberty BC, Flowood (SS); (2) Pray for 8 to 10 volunteer teams that will be going to Malta in 2006. Pray even now that they will have "divine appointments" with people in their "adopted" villages. Over half of the 68 Local Council areas or villages in Malta have been adopted by praying groups from several countries and states.

For: (1) True Love Waits (Youth Ministry); (2) Edwina Robinson Special Day - "A Special Day for Mississippi Christ Followers" (WMU); (3) A group of believers has a vision to praywalk every street in the city with 5,000 prayer partners. Please pray for prayer partners to help in prayer walking every street in Thessaloniki, Greece.

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 8th - 10th; (2) Give thanks that a major evangelism effort took place in Goteve, Niger, last month. A team from Niamey spent three days sharing their faith in the village. During the weekend, the Jesus film was shown, with over 1,200 people attending. Pray that all the seed sown will take root and produce a great harvest.

(1) For Mississippi Baptist Church Music Conference, Emmanuel BC, Grenada (CM); (2) Malnutrition is an enormous problem for children in China's poverty-stricken rural areas. Pray today that all the children of China will be able to receive much-needed physical sustenance. Pray also that they will have an opportunity to know the Bread of life.

A volunteer team in North Africa prayed in a nation's home. The prayer was in English. The words were a mystery. But to love they could not explain and had never before experienced was paradise. Today the family gathers each week to study the Bible. Pray for each member of this family to attend the study faithfully and to understand the Gospel completely.

For: (1) Area Keyboard Festivals: FBC, Grenada; North Greenwood BC, Greenwood; Alta Woods BC, Brandon, FBC, Pascagoula; William Carey College, Hattiesburg; (2) Pray for missionary Jeff Goward in Brazil as he works with the leadership in a local drug and alcohol recuperation center as they seek to help free individuals from their addictive and dysfunctional behaviors. Thank God for this open door.

For: (1) Christian Education Clinic, Highland BC, Meridian; (DAFM); (2) Gary Mathis, North Charleston, S.C., is the special ministries coordinator for the Charleston Association in South Carolina. Pray that local volunteers will be burdened for the lost and be willing to serve in this diverse mission field.

Missionaries Dan and Mary Agnes Minich who live in southern Taiwan write: "Please lift up LS and her husband, KL, to the Lord. KL prayed to receive Christ and is faithful in coming to church but struggles with living the Christian life, gambling and making poor choices. His children (age 16, 17 and 18) are also making poor choices. Pray for this family to experience God's transforming power in their daily lives."

## CORRECTION from 1/12/06 HouseTops

### Family Life Conferences

MONDAY, FEB. 6, MONTICELLO BAPTIST CHURCH (601-587-2114)

- Senior Adult – Farley Earnest, Brandon
- Single Adult – Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Marriage – Don Hicks, MBCB
- Parenting – Denny Hydrick, Pearl
- Five Love Languages – Dot Day, Crystal Springs

MONDAY, FEB. 13, THOMPSON BAPTIST CHURCH, SMITHDALE (601-567-2262)

- Children/Preschool Leaders – Don Hicks, MBCB
- Finances – Jerry Mixon, MBCB
- Steps to a Godly Home – Glenn Shows, MBCB

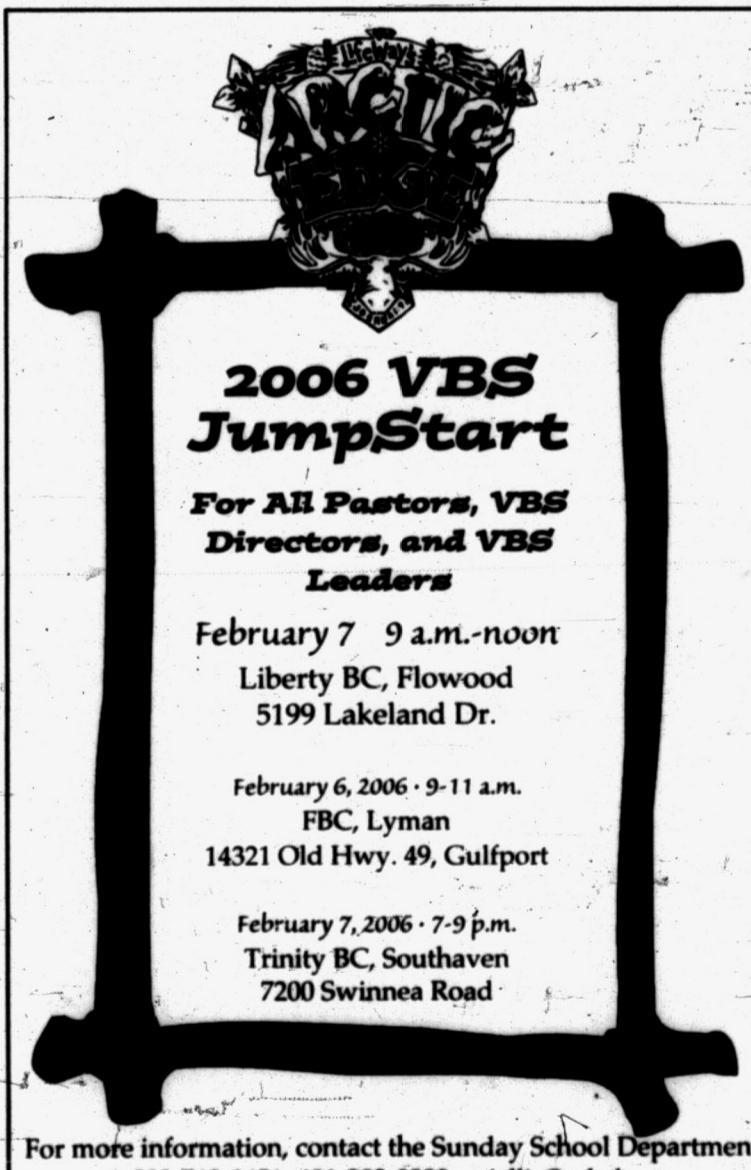
TUESDAY, FEB. 21, ROLLING FORK BAPTIST CHURCH (662-873-2862)

- Marriage – Don Hicks, MBCB
- Senior Adults – Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Discipline in the Home – Harvey Ellis, MBCB

THURSDAY, MARCH 2, FBC, YAZOO CITY (662-746-2471)

- Marriage – Glenn Shows, MBCB
- Senior Adults – Gayle Garrett, Clinton
- Steps to a Godly Home – Don Hicks, MBCB

For more info, contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry Office, 601-292-3373, 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail: gshows@mbcn.org



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JumpStart**

For All Pastors, VBS  
Directors, and VBS  
Leaders

February 7 9 a.m.-noon  
Liberty BC, Flowood  
5199 Lakeland Dr.

February 6, 2006 • 9-11 a.m.  
FBC, Lyman  
14321 Old Hwy. 49, Gulfport

February 7, 2006 • 7-9 p.m.  
Trinity BC, Southaven  
7200 Swinnea Road

For more information, contact the Sunday School Department  
1-800-748-1651, 601-292-3292 or jellis@mbcb.org



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HERE  
OR TO GO**

July 20-22, 2006  
William Carey College, Hattiesburg

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• **To Go** is about sharing Jesus with others, especially to people groups in other countries.

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For registration info:

Sunday School Department

601-292-3292 or 1-800-748-1651 or jellis@mbcb.org

For those of you interested in attending Centri-Kid July 31-August 4 at William Carey College, please register with LifeWay at [www.lifeway.com/fuge](http://www.lifeway.com/fuge).

The following is a listing of contributions made to the Lord's work which were processed through the Business Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board from January 1, 2005, through December 31, 2005. An "\*" denotes a gift from the association. If you have any questions about the amounts reported for your church, please contact the Business Office at 601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651.

	COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL		COOP. PROGRAM	OTHER	TOTAL
PEASANT GROVE	2071	274.30	572.94	MOCAL CREEK	1,150.00	945.39	2,095.39	MT PLEASANT	2,548.55	1,690.00	4,238.55
PEASANT HILL	12,533.67	11,200.00	23,733.67	MEADVILLE	3,400.54	50,202.06	53,602.54	MT VERNON	1,141.63	200.00	1,341.63
PEASANT SPRINGS	2,260.00	1,134.16	3,394.16	MITZION	5,452.03	565.68	5,917.68	OAK GROVE	509.00	1,200.00	1,709.00
PEPPERMINT BRANCH	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	NEW HOPE	1,207.25	717.25	1,915.00	OREGON MEMORIAL	2,024.00	2,000.00	4,024.00
PEPPERMINT MOUNT	5,714.66	1,353.57	7,068.23	NEW SALEM	4,513.71	4,300.00	8,813.71	ROSS	1,071.62	1,000.00	2,071.62
SABUGUA	6,118.00	7,636.76	15,754.76	PROVIDENCE	2,300.21	1,422.57	3,722.78	PEASANT RIDGE	500.00	200.00	700.00
SALVIA	1,072.00	1,471.00	2,543.00	RAMAH	2,015.00	1,600.00	3,615.00	WEST	2,000.00	200.00	2,200.00
SHILOH	1,207.25	11,102.78	12,309.93	RAINE	2,452.02	5,612.00	8,064.02	WES	4,019.02	500.00	4,519.02
SPRING HILL	1,075.14	1,409.58	2,488.72	SAFETY	7,100.25	536.07	7,636.32	WES	500.00	200.00	700.00
TURKEY CREEK	81.00	1,007.20	1,188.20	SLAWN	1,000.00	1,000.00	2,000.00	WES	1,270.17	1,000.00	2,270.17
WESTSIDE	3,129.17	1,255.75	4,384.92	SWINCHILL	327.00	150.00	477.00	WES	1,000.00	200.00	1,200.00
Total	307,091.81	283,716.61	591,108.42	UNION	1,200.00	75,247.12	76,447.12	WES	500.00	200.00	700.00
CARROLL	539.75	539.75	539.75								
BLACK HAWK	2,268.58	2,077.50	4,346.08								
CALVARY	50,551.27	30,279.00	80,830.27								
CENTREVILLE	5,551.27	5,580.00	11,131.27								
COLA	10,000.00	550.00	10,550.00								
HARMONY	10,046.66	510.66	10,557.32								
HICKORY GROVE	2,255.20	2,310.17	4,565.34								
HILLCREST	1,225.20	2,590.76	3,815.96								
LIBERTY	6,687.48	9,558.87	16,246.35								
MAHLMANSON	5,073.23	6,641.25	13,714.48								
MCCARLEY	4,383.00	2,800.00	7,191.00								
MIT OLIVE	14,726.01	18,880.84	33,566.85								
MIT PISGAH	9,030.50	10,602.11	20,432.61								
NEW BETHEL	3,611.26	6,334.76	9,946.02								
NEW SALEM	4,000.00	4,000.00	8,000.00								
NORTH CARROLLTON	12,623.39	26,107.10	43,370.49								
PROVIDENCE	7,525.72	5,684.13	14,009.85								
SHILOH	5,212.00	6,713.00	11,925.00								
VADEN	3,602.52	3,420.00	6,722.52								
WHITE HILL	1,053.73	1,053.73	2,107.46								
Total	171,479.14	176,877.75	348,266.89								
OKLAHOMA	5,135.42	8,913.92	14,049.34								
ANTIOCH	5,567.70	9,533.13	15,000.83								
BETHLEHEM	5,567.70	10,116.00	15,683.70								
BETH SHORE	5,567.70	11,122.50	16,689.20								
CALVARY	5,567.70	11,122.50	16,689.20								
COUNTRY LINE	5,567.70	11,122.50	16,689.20								
DANVILLE	1,458.68	1,907.69	3,366.37								
EAST CORINTH	8,056.48	4,911.22	12,968.00								
FBC BIGGERSVILLE	3,209.85	3,931.79	7,141.64								
FBC CORINTH	191,154.36	49,366.53	240,520.89								
HINKLE	6,251.84	5,502.00	11,753.84								
HOLLY	8,152.53	16,519.34	24,671.72								
JACINTO	1,490.20	2,637.00	4,127.20								
KEMPS CHAPEL	1,377.04	1,846.04	3,223.08								
KENDRICK	588.75	1,368.77	1,957.52								
KOSSUTH FIRST	2,782.79	3,721.69	6,504.48								
LIBERTY HILL	1,720.00	1,421.28	3,142.28								
LONG CREEK	1,720.00	4,212.53	5,932.53								
LOTUS	844.25	1,651.75	2,493.53								
NORTH CORINTH	90,020.41	61,948.38	161,978.79								
OKLAHOMA	9,273.70	12,849.06	22,122.36								
RIDGECREST	7,772.32	28,111.60	35,883.93								
RENIER	7,772.32	10,000.00	17,772.32								
SHILOH	12,654.27	12,056.51	24,710.78								
SOUTH CORINTH	1,200.00	7,525.00	8,725.00								
TATE	81,009.23	51,078.66	132,087.89								
TISHOMINGO CHAPEL	8,813.03	5,347.00	14,160.83								
TUSCUMBIA	3,071.03	4,056.52	8,477.54								
UNION	4,877.09	3,792.43	8,669.52								
UNITY	876.97	1,829.75	2,706.72								
WEST CORINTH	12,278.00	11,377.33	23,655.33								
WHEELER GROVE	12,025.14	17,467.25	30,492.39								
Total	57,632.87	358,402.08	935,234.95								
ATTALA	2,229.00	1,472.00	1,472.00								
BEAR CREEK	1,423.21	2,740.35	4,163.56								
BEEWIL	1,380.00	401.67	1,731.47								
CARSON RIDGE	150.00	1,432.50	2,073.50								
CENTER	641.00	1,625.30	2,216.30								
COUNTY LINE	3,075.00	5,263.50	9,138.50								
DOTY SPRINGS	340.20	5,864.75	6,205.03								
EBENEZER	3,318.00	4,458.00	7,776.00								
EDGEFIELD	646.00	60.00	706.00								
ETHEL	10,537.00	8,677.37	19,214.37								
FBC KOSCIUSKO	187,239.80	135,357.27	322,595.07								
HARMONY</											







BMC Faculty and Staff

1. The following students have graduated from Southern Baptist seminaries: Katie Rebecca Cole, Brandon, Master of Divinity in Chaplain Ministry, Southwestern Seminary; Daniel Jacob Barber, Ocean Springs, Master of Divinity, Southeastern Seminary; and Jack T. (Tommy) Mitchell, Luce-  
dale, Doctor of Ministry, Billy Graham School of Mission, Evangelism, and Church Ministry, Southern Seminary.

2. In preparation for observing MLK Day on Jan. 16, Blue Mountain College held a special chapel emphasis on service, volunteerism, and dedication to the workplace. Bobby P.

Martin, chairman of the BMC Board of Trustees, was one of several guest speakers who challenged the student body to choose opportunities of service that were personally satisfying and where they could make a difference. Joy Hurt Hill, president of the National Alumnae Association, led the students in recognizing the BMC faculty and staff who have served the College for a combined total of 846 years. Johnnie Armstrong, associate professor of Physical Education, was recognized as the longest service faculty member with 51 years. Carla Benson, administrative assistant to the president,



McCumber

was recognized as the longest serving staff member with 42 years.

3. Lacey Cofield, a sophomore vocal performance major from Wiggins, was crowned Miss William Carey College recently at the Miss William Carey College Pageant held on the Hattiesburg campus.
4. Jennifer McCumber, a senior vocal performance major from Hattiesburg, was crowned Miss Pine Belt at the Miss Pine Belt Pageant held recently on the William Carey College campus in Hattiesburg.

5. William Carey College will host the Young Authors Celebration Feb. 3 from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. on the Hattiesburg campus. Mississippi's first lady Marsha Barbour will attend the event with several young authors from Forrest, Lamar, Hatties-

## MISSISSIPPI BAPTISTS



burg, Petal, and the Lamar County school district. Approximately 300 children, grades 1-8, will share their writing and illustrations with other young authors. Other activities will include lectures with published authors and illustrators of children's books, book signings, and lunch.



Cofield, Miss WCC

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**ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF SENIOR ADULTS/PASTORAL CARE:** First Baptist Church, Decatur, AL accepting resumes for full-time minister to senior adults and oversee the pastoral care ministry. Mail or email resumes to P.O. Box 1667, attn: pastor, Decatur, AL 35602. Or [fbcdecatur.org](mailto:fbcdecatur.org).

**SEEKING GOD'S MAN TO SERVE AS FULL-TIME PASTOR** for FBC Union Grove. Send resume and tapes/video to pastor search committee, 506 2nd Street, N.E., Arab, AL 35016.

**CHRISTIAN LONG DISTANCE**, 3.9 cents interstate, 4.9 cents in state. No monthly service charge. Call (866) 587-8346 or [www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldt](http://www.lowermyphonebill.com/haroldt).

**SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, CHRISTIAN MCCALLA, ALABAMA** is seeking a full-time minister of students and education. A growing SBC church desires someone with at least 2 years experience and master's degree. Person should have a heart for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and worship. Send resume to 12858 Tannehill Parkway, McCalla, AL 35111 or [jon@tannehillvalley.org](mailto:jon@tannehillvalley.org).

**HOPPER GLASS STUDIO, CUSTOM** church windows, reworking and repair, Columbus/Jackson, (877) 477-1899.

**THE JOURNEY: A RETREAT FOR MEN** based on John Eldredge's "Wild at Heart" February 10-12. For more information call (662) 312-8232 or go to [www.outdoorfamilyadventures.com/retreats](http://www.outdoorfamilyadventures.com/retreats) or email [Alex@outdoorfamilyadventures.com](mailto:Alex@outdoorfamilyadventures.com).

**FULL-TIME YOUTH MINISTER TO JR. HIGH AND SENIOR HIGH.** Manage intern staff, volunteer staff, and overall youth ministry. Preference considerations to married males with master's degree and 3-5 years church staff experience.

Send resume to Ken Horst, Calvary Baptist Church, 1121 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa, AL 35401.

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**DISCOUNT BAPTISTRIES & STEEPLES.** Baptistry murals, heaters, lighting, seating, wall crosses, pew cushions, kringlas, carpet, signs. Church Supply Company of Texas, (800) 728-8291.

**FULL-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC:** First Baptist Church, Scottsboro, Alabama, is seeking a full-time minister of music and worship leader. (Sunday am- live TV and radio). For more information call (256) 574-3308 or email [musicsearch@fbccscottsboro.org](mailto:musicsearch@fbccscottsboro.org). Send resumes to First Baptist Church, c/o minister of music search committee, 215 South Andrews Street, Scottsboro, Alabama 35768.

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## Bibliocipher

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SL CMV TCM JYPXY TY,

OYU GST LKOOKA TY;

CMB ACYPY S CT,

UGPY JCCOO COJK TV

JYPXCMU WY; SL CMV

TCM JYPXY TY, GST ASOO

TV LCUGYP GKMKD.

QKGM UAYOXY:

UAYMUV-JSN

Clue: T = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Second Timothy Four: One.

## STAFF CHANGES

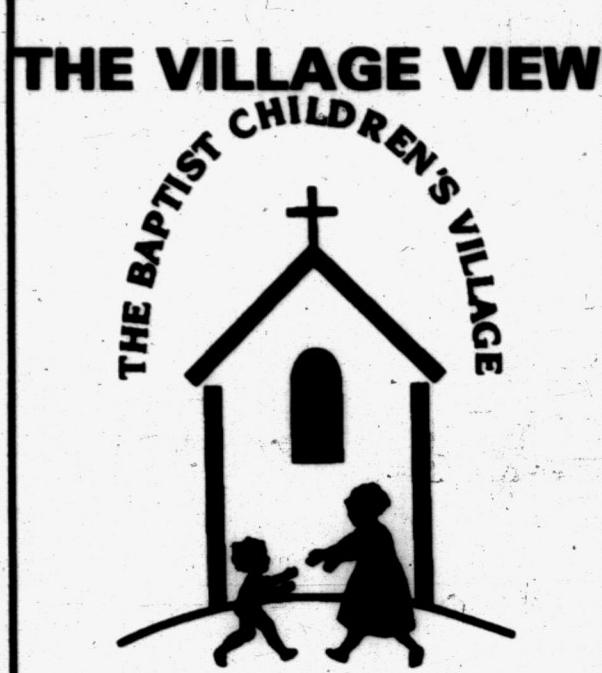
**YALE STREET CHURCH,** Cleveland, has called Thomas Bruce as pastor, effective Jan. 16.

## MS POSITIONS

**PRE-K 4 TEACHER NEEDED** for Alta Woods Baptist Church Kindergarten/daycare. Experience preferred. Please contact Nina at (601) 372-5188.

**BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, BOGUE CHITTO, MISS.** in Lincoln county is seeking a part-time minister of music. Please send resume or recommendations to search committee, 112 Montgomery Rd. SW, Summit, MS 39666.

**PART-TIME/BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTER OF MUSIC:** HEUCKS RETREAT BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKHAVEN, MISSISSIPPI, is seeking a part-time/bi-vocational Minister of Music with interests in traditional/contemporary worship styles. Please send resumes and references to Heucks Retreat Baptist Church, 2167 Heucks Retreat Rd. NE, Brookhaven, MS 39601. Attention: Chairman, Personnel Committee or call 601-672-3518.



**Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director**

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## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

Gifts of Honor and Memory are given in honor of a loved one or in memory of a loved one who has passed away. These gifts are used to support the ministry of the Baptist Children's Village.

### DECEMBER 5-11

#### MEMORIALS

Mr. Jacky Balof  
Mr. & Mrs. Riley Trimm  
Jeff Barber  
Kim Doherty  
Harold Francis Barker  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Oakes & Sons  
Mitch Oaks  
Debra Phillips Barnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Ward  
William Banks  
Graeber Brothers, Inc.  
Mr. L. W. Bentley  
Mr. & Mrs. Mathis Holt  
Mrs. James Bickham  
Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Green Jr.  
Mrs. Effie Bigham  
Robert & Sue Wilkie  
Barbara Bishop  
Stuart & Phileene Allen  
Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Bennett, Jr.  
Mrs. Barbara Bishop  
Dr. Raanan Ray Tindle  
Marie Blakeney  
Mrs. Rose M. Faircloth  
Mrs. Alice Blankenship  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Southerland  
Miss Arva Blocker  
Dr. H. D. Posey  
Yvette Blue  
Ms. Linda K. Spencer  
Rev. C. L. Boland  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe B. Holmes  
Otis Boles  
Mrs. Betty Jo Schmidt  
Hilda Nell Bourne  
Employees of Corner of Faith  
Mrs. Ann Stringer  
Louise Bourne  
Mrs. Ann Stringer  
Mr. James F. Boykin

Mrs. Rosa M. Miller  
Paul Bradshaw  
Mrs. Melba H. Blocker  
Mrs. Charlene Breazeale  
Robert & Sue Wilkie  
James S. (Buzz) Brett  
Mrs. Ann W. Hayes  
Glen Bridges  
Mrs. Ann Stringer  
Evelyn Brister  
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Ward  
Sister of Betty Brock  
Glenda & Jerry Fry  
Beulie Gertrude Brooks  
Ms. Ann S. Hanna  
Mrs. Wydell Brooks  
Gail Cooley Mitchell & Family  
Claude Brown, Jr.  
Dorcas Class, Clear Creek BC  
Dr. Robert H. Brunfield  
Mrs. Robert H. Brunfield  
Edna Bruton  
Mr. Ted R. Bruton  
Allen Bryant  
Mrs. Bal Mobley  
Blaine Christopher Buckley  
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil Gile Polk & Family  
Dr. Walter R. Burris  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Parker  
Dr. Linus D. Jayroe  
Ms. Jurline Steed  
Elonora Bush  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Russell  
Mr. Edward Cannon  
Mr. & Mrs. Lee E. Gillespie  
Mrs. Karen Capps  
Mrs. Vangie Fields  
Gladys Caraway  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Churchwell  
Mrs. Ann Corley  
Mr. & Mrs. Calvin E. Harvey  
Allen Carpenter  
Mr. & Mrs. Pat Ingram

Mrs. Lillian Graham Carson  
Mrs. Mary June House  
Miss Graham Carson  
Mr. & Mrs. Moran M. Pope Jr.  
Mrs. Veta Chappell  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. B. L. "Buddy" Chesser  
Mr. & Mrs. Wyatt J. Davis Jr.  
Mrs. Joy B. Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker  
Mr. Ernest Childs  
Mr. & Mrs. Glynn Jones  
James Clark  
Hubert & Patricia Kendrick  
Sister (Ann) of Wallace & Earl Clark  
Thelma Jones  
Clara M. Roberts  
Ray Roberts  
Brenda Robertson  
Ron Cockayne  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Sheffield  
Mr. Johnny Coker  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Neville Conner  
Mr. & Mrs. Patrick N. Conner  
Charlene Cooper  
Miriam SSC, FBC-Lucedale  
Mr. Boyce Cooper  
Mrs. Gail Cooley Mitchell  
Mrs. Ethel Copeland  
Dr. Linus D. Jayroe  
Kim Corban  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Dillard  
Mr. J. R. Cournoyer  
Mrs. Lee Audis-Jayroe  
Dr. Linda Pepper  
Mr. Joseph R. Cournoyer  
Dr. Linus D. Jayroe  
Brandi Cowart  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles L. Shelton  
Michael David Cox  
Mr. & Mrs. David Cox  
Mrs. Ruth Crawley  
Dr. & Mrs. Gerald J. Hasselman  
Margaret Creel  
Thirteenth Avenue Pharmacy & Staff  
Linda Cole Crenshaw  
Mr. Richard Crenshaw  
Lena Crocker  
Ms. Juanita M. Hight  
Mr. Hubert Cumberland  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Catherine Cummings  
Ms. Georgia L. Ballard  
Ms. Cynthia A. Hanna  
Katie Cummings  
Mr. & Mrs. Kelly Perry  
Jesse Daniels  
Mrs. Janice L. Cranage  
Mrs. Merlene Daniels  
Mr. & Mrs. Victor S. McMullan  
M. E. Davis, Jr.  
Mrs. Helen P. Daves & Family  
Cecil Davidson  
Mr. & Mrs. Austin Smith  
Bill H. & Betty Davis  
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Crenshaw Baptist Church  
Charlotte Hall  
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Robert & Sue Wilkie  
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Willie H. Smith  
Miss Janet C. Smith  
Jim D. Spiers  
Mrs. Ardus Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Spiers, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Seal  
Mr. & Mrs. William Rowley  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Fortinberry  
Mrs. Neil Armstrong  
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Mrs. Ardus Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Spiers, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Shane Seal  
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Mrs. Neil Armstrong  
Victoria Spiers  
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Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Spiers, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Joel Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Spiers  
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Mr. & Mrs. Shane Seal  
Mr. & Mrs. William Rowley  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy Fortinberry  
Mrs. Neil Armstrong  
Catherine Spiers  
Second Baptist Church  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Chestnut  
Iris Catherine Spiers  
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The Baptist Children's Village is seeking a Christian couple to join our ministry team as full-time, live-in house parents. This ministry position has a good salary and benefits.

For more information contact Ms. Kathy Flournoy at [kflournoy@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:kflournoy@baptistchildrensvillage.com) or call 601-922-2242.

Thank you to all of you who have helped to sponsor the choir trip for our 9th grade residents who will participate in a school choir trip to Orlando, Florida.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Why is sexual purity important?

**Genesis 2:18, 21-25; Proverbs 5:15-20;  
Romans 13:11-14**

**By Don Hicks**

God has a good plan for us in every aspect of life. We need to find God's plan to achieve the best in life. The Bible is the source of dependable information about all of God's will. In the most important aspects of life we can find Jesus Christ Himself teaching God's plan.

This is the case for marriage and human sexuality. Jesus taught what God's plan is and has been from the beginning of time. "But at the beginning of creation God made them male and female." For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let

man not separate," Mark 10:6-9 [NIV].

The focal scripture passage for our lesson today includes the Bible's account of the "beginning of creation." Genesis 2:20-24 is the passage Jesus was quoting:

"But for Adam no suitable helper was found. So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, for she was taken out of man."

For this reason a man will

leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh."

Jesus stressed that this was God's plan from the very beginning because this helped explain that it is important and basic to God's good plan. In addition to God including the account of the first marriage in the very beginning of His Word, the importance of protecting God's plan for sexual purity can be seen in the large number of times the Bible stresses it and the places where it is stressed.

One of the places God defends marriage and requires sexual purity is in the Ten Commandments. Two of the ten deal directly with reserving God's good gift of sex to the marriage relationship. The seventh commandment is direct and explicit "You shall not commit adultery," Exodus 20:14 [NIV]. And the tenth commandment is equally clear "You shall not covet your neighbor's

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house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife (the underline was added for emphasis), or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor," Exodus 20:17 [NIV].

Many of the Proverbs deal with avoiding sexual sin. Proverbs 5:18-20 makes this emphasis this way: "...and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. ... may you ever be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? ..."

The captivating love of a married couple is the way the Holy Spirit chose to have the Apostle Paul explain the relationship between Christ and his bride the church in Ephesians chapter 5. Look more closely in Ephesians 5 at verses 25 and following: "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her ... to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ... but

he feeds and care for it, just as Christ does the church — for we are members of his body. 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Paul taught that as the day of Christ's return approaches we are to be ready. Part of being ready Paul taught was to "behave decently." This is the way he explained behaving decently in Romans 13:12-14

"The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature," [NIV].

**Hicks is a member of First Church, Clinton.**

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Consider Others

**Romans 14:1-12**

**By Shirley Heap**

How do you interpret "spiritual pride"? Aren't these two words in total opposition to each other? This is exactly what Paul is dealing with in the early church. As a pastor's wife of 35 years, I have seen many differences in churches regarding "doing or not doing" even though all were Baptist. Also, as an older person I can remember grandparents having patterns and traditions that are no longer recognized today. This brings one to conclude that our traditions are not the greatest priority. God wants His people to know Him and give praise to Him only. So our hearts should be so turned to consider others as they grow in the Lord.

**Accept Others,  
Romans 14:1-2**

Although one may not worship in the same way we do, that person is to be accepted as a brother in Christ. We must not judge the people on their methods of worship. In these two verses Paul begins to address a problem that had arisen in the church at Rome between those Christians from Jewish background who still wanted to follow the Jewish ceremonial law regarding the eating of meat and those from Gentile background who understood that grace freed them from these rules. Paul admonishes them not to argue over the issue but to encourage one another in the faith.

Several years ago our family moved to a new church field. As



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the pastor's wife I began to notice the ladies never wore pants. I never mentioned it to anyone, but only wore dresses the years we were there. It was more important to show them the love of Christ than to change their traditions. Paul said that he had become all things to all people that he might save some. A lifestyle of love and humility can win many that criticism or judgmental sermons can never reach.

**Avoid Criticizing Others,  
Romans 14:3-4**

Our missionaries deal with cultures that are different and must adapt the Gospel message so that each culture can understand. They could win very few if they tried to deal with them with an attitude of criticism. Missionaries' goals are the same as Paul's; that is to see people come to know Jesus through faith. As believers, this should always be foremost in our

minds. Some may raise their hands in worship, others may lie face down, and others may bow their heads in humility and weep. So who are we to criticize what may be in their hearts?

**Live for the Lord,  
Romans 14:5-9**

In verse 5 Paul says, "Let each man be convinced in his own mind." Only in examination of our own hearts and minds can we know that we know Him. Paul was sure of this one thing. As we walk as Christians we are never alone. Many see us daily and we watch others. Paul wanted all believers to know what he knew about the Lord. We see this in all his writings. God deals with the inward part of man. We still try to work with the outward part.

From Paul's heart he says, "if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord" (Verse 8). If we could truly grasp this thought what an abundant life we would have. The only reason Christ came

and died and rose again was that He could be Lord of all.

**Remember God's Judgment,  
Romans 14:10-12**

Paul has a way of bringing us back into reality by making strong statements after he asks a question. "Why do you criticize your brother? Then he adds, "We will all stand before the judgment seat of God" (Verse 10).

We all have so much to deal with in our own fellowship with our Lord, so where does this leave us as judges to criticize our brothers? We have no podium on which to stand. "...every knee shall bow and every tongue confess to God." (Verse 11). Christ has cleansed each of his children and begun a good work in each life and will continue this work as He sees fit. Each one will give an account of himself. May we be found faithful by showing others Christ through our lives.

**Heap is a member of Calvary Church, Waynesboro.**

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

# THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible. Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

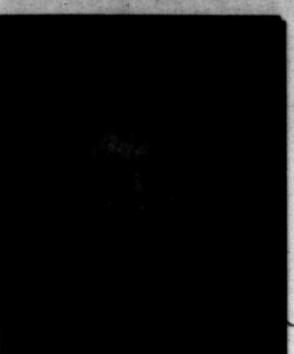
## JUST FOR THE RECORD



Alston



Cessna



Coughran



Smith

McBride

Strong

### 1. Perfect Attendance, Utica Church

1. Utica Church, Utica, recognized the following members for perfect attendance in Sunday School: Edna Earl Cessna, 6 years, 6 months; Cloyd "Buddy" Strong, 7 years; Don Alston, 7 years, 3 months; Diane Smith, 5 years; Terrica McBride, 17 years, 9 months; and Kevin Coughran, 18 years. Ben James, pastor.
2. Trinity Church, Monroe Association, surpassed their Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$500 by collecting \$1186.06. Pastor Jack Dauphin, in response to his challenge to the church, shaved his beard at the conclusion of the worship service.
3. Crossgates Church, Brandon, will host Evidence in concert Jan. 29, 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 825-2562.
4. Concord Church, Booneville, will host N-2 Jesus in concert Jan. 29, 5 p.m., followed by a fellowship meal.

5. First Church, Madison, will host a Wild Game Feast Feb. 3, 6:30 p.m., featuring Jimmy Sites, Nashville, Tenn., speaking on the topic, A Look at Life from a Deer Stand. Bring a wild game dish and a friend. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. For more information, call (601) 856-6177.



9. Dowdy Ordained, Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove



10. Fall Festival, Slayden Church, Slayden



6. Bible Drill Participant, Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce



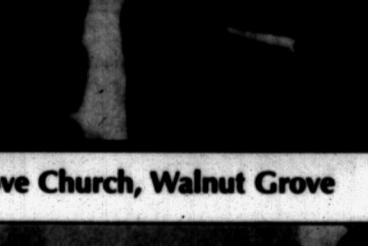
7. Youth Bible Drill Participants, Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce



8. Lottie Moon Offering, First Church, Vancleave

### 2. Lottie Moon Offering, Trinity Church, Monroe Association

6. Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce, recognizes Children's Bible drill participant Benjamin Baker for completing the state level in 2005. Shown is Baker and leader Debbi Harrelson.
7. Mt. Comfort Church, Bruce, recognizes its Youth Bible drill participants. Shown left to right: Teresa Harrelson, leader; Brandy Gann, Christopher Baker, Rebekah Baker, and Janae Harrelson.
8. First Church, Vancleave, surpassed their \$30,000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal by collecting \$34,662.60, including a
9. Slayden Church, Slayden, held a Fall Festival Oct. 31, and their sanctuary choir presented Night of Alleluias Dec. 10 and 11. Shown is Trilby West as Granny from the Fall Festival and the sanctuary choir.



## OBITUARIES

**Leonard Doil Howell**, 71, passed away Nov. 28, 2005. He has pastored Mount View Church, Ripley; Macedonia Church, Myrtle; Glenfield Church, New Albany; Evergreen Church, Louisville; Shady Grove Church, Pontotoc; and Amaziah Church, Hickory Flat. Services were held at Temperance Hill Church, Potts Camp, with Jason Howell and Kara Blackard officiating. Survivors include his wife, Dorothy Virginia Humphreys Howell; three sons, Leonard Doil Howell, Jr., Thomas D. Howell and wife, LaShon, and Lannie Derrick Howell, and wife, Jan; three sisters, three brothers, five grandchildren, and five stepgrandchildren.

**J. Ray Grissett**, 74, passed away Jan. 10. Funeral services were held at Moor Funeral Home, Hattiesburg, with Eugene H. Dobbs and Joe Young officiating. Grissett held pastorates at Richburg Church, Hattiesburg, First Church, Beaumont, Cove Church, Panama City, Fla., First Church, Wiggins, and First Church, Philadelphia. He was administrative consultant with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board and retired in September, 1993, as Director of the Cooperative Missions department. He is survived by his wife, Mary Pope Ray Grissett; daughters Thelma Jayne Grissett and Michal Theresa Grissett Tincup and husband Jeffrey William; Gloria Ray McNair and husband Michael; a grandson, two step granddaughters, two great-grandchildren, and a sister and her husband.